

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 26 SEPTEMBER 2023

2023/24 PLACE-BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

REPORT BY ALISON SMITH, DIRECTOR OF VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

ABSTRACT

This report seeks approval of the applications recommended for approval, listed in Appendix 2 through the 2023/24 Scottish Government Capital Place-Based Investment Programme (PBIP) and UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Approves the projects recommended by the Angus Council officer panel for use of the balance of the 2023/24 Scottish Government Place-Based Investment allocation of £400,000 after allowing for the commitment already approved per paragraph 3.5 below;
- (ii) Approves the allocation of £220,000 of the 2024/25 Place-Based Investment Fund to allow the recommended projects to be proceed;
- (iii) Approves an allocation of £143,540 of UK Shared Prosperity funding towards the Angus Alive Signal Tower project;
- (iv) Approves a match of £200,000 of the UK Shared Prosperity funding towards the Arbroath Community Centre project; and
- (v) Delegates authority to the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth to approve any necessary emergency decisions for funding from the Scottish Government Place-Based Investment Programme for the remainder of the fund following consultation with the Convener of Communities.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

This report contributes to the following priorities in the Angus Council Plan:

Caring for our Place

- Engage with communities to support their ambitions to deliver on local aspirations (e.g. Community asset transfer requests, community gardens, food hubs)
- Maximise funding opportunities and grants to the Third Sector and communities to support their ambitions to deliver services

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The 2020-21 Scottish Government Programme for Government announced the creation of a Place-Based Investment Programme (PBIP) with £275million of funding to support place-based working. The PBIP aims to ensure that all place-based investments are shaped by the needs and aspirations of local communities and accelerate ambitions for place-making, 20-minute neighbourhoods, town centre revitalisation, community-led regeneration, inclusive growth, local resilience, community wealth building and should work towards Net Zero targets.
- 3.2 The PBIP is a 5-year financial commitment of capital funding from the Scottish Government. The following shows the commitment and spend to date and the future allocations:

Date	Allocated/committed	Amount
2021/22	Spent	£720,000
2022/23	Committed	£624,000
2023/24	Subject to approval	£435,000
2024/25	Allocated	£435,000
2025/26	Allocated	£435,000

3.3 At its meeting of 10 March 2022 (Report No 107/22), Angus Council:

- Agreed the process for the distribution of funds
- Agreed the scoring criteria for the distribution of the Scottish Government Place-Based Investment Programme 2021/2022
- Delegated authority to the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth to approve any necessary emergency decisions for funding from the Scottish Government Place-Based Investment Programme for the remainder of the fund following consultation with the Convenor of Communities Committee.

3.4 At its meeting of 16 August 2022, Report 193/22 Angus Council:

Agreed to approve the projects recommended by the Angus Council officer panel for the use of the Scottish Government Place-Based Investment allocation of £624,000 for 2022/23;

3.5 At its meeting of 22 June 2023 (Report No 191/23) Angus Council approved £35,000 to be committed to the Monifieth Community Hub from the 2023/24 PBIP, leaving a balance of £400,000 in the fund.

4. CURRENT POSITION

4.1 The target outcomes for the Place-Based Investment Programme are:

- Local Resilience: creating, in every place, relevant choices for better futures, with the capacity to continue to influence, adapt and benefit from these as things change.
- Inclusive Growth: growing the right environment for local economic resilience, tackling inequality, creating opportunities for all, and distributing the benefits fairly.
- Low Carbon: contributing towards a net-zero carbon Scotland and responding locally to the climate change emergency.
- Community Wealth: reshaping local relationships and infrastructures to ensure local well-being and local benefits flow from the commercial, public, and social economies.

4.2 In addition to addressing a strategic risk at a local level and contributing to overarching national policy outcomes, the PBIP has three specific objectives:

- Enable more partnering across sectors – by establishing a network of anchor collaborations, each acting as a focus for local resilience, service reform, net-zero carbon, and community wealth building.
- Retain and attract people and businesses to once vibrant places – through supporting ambitious local change programmes which embed collective leadership across services and sectors and apply the Place Principle to use all assets.
- Increase footfall, social interaction, and economic activity in our Town Centres – by proactively clustering services and purpose in the right places and applying the Town Centre First Principle.

4.3 Consultation and engagement with community groups and Angus Council services were conducted through an expression of interest process launched in May 2023. This was undertaken to understand the aspirations of services, third-sector organisations and community groups. Projects that matched the fund's criteria and evidenced delivery within the tight timescales were invited to apply.

- 4.4 Thirteen applications were received, totalling £1,318,834.80. An internal panel of 3 officers from Planning, Economic Development, and Vibrant Communities assessed and scored the applications based on the set criteria. There was then a verification process by Senior Officers, which included in some cases seeking further information and to add value to the fund determining if other sources of funding were available. Combined scores and comments from the officer group and verifiers are provided in Appendix 2, and each project's summary detail can be reviewed in Appendix 3.
- 4.5 All applications received were well planned, and most were ready for delivery; However some are suitable for other funding streams and not all projects can be supported from PBIF. The applications received have highlighted the support required for community-led projects. Angus Community Development Support project is underway in partnership with the Angus Rural Partnership to deliver workshops to the communities for Angus on relevant matters such as business planning, funding workshops, cashflow and community engagement. This will strengthen applications for future years.
- 4.6 The Vibrant Communities team, along with the council's Funding and Projects Officer, will also work with the applicants that are unsuccessful for the 2023/24 Place Based Investment Fund and will assist in developing the projects further, sourcing external funding or preparing the application for the 2024/25 round of the fund. Staff will also support successful applicants where projects require additional development and to source external funding where needed.
- 4.7 The Angus Investment Plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund set out an allocation of £336,000 under Intervention S1: Place Based Improvements, Regeneration and Town Centre Improvements and £189,000 under Intervention S4: Design and Management of the Built and Landscaped Environment for 2023/24 (Report 165/23 refers). Given the related nature of these interventions to the PBIP there is scope to allocate additional funding to suitable projects to ensure delivery within this financial year.
- 4.8 The scoring criteria agreed by Angus Council officers are as follows:

Criteria	Maximum Score per assessor
Impact	15
Deliverability within the timescales set	15
Sustainability	10
Place-based evidence of need	10
Leverage	5
Carbon reduction	5
Total	60

- 4.9 Members are therefore asked to approve the following:
- Officer recommendations on the allocation of £400,000 from the 2023/24 PBIP
 - An allocation of £220,000 from the 2024/2025 PBIP fund which is known to be £435,000 leaving £215,000 for 2024/25
 - £143,540 from Intervention S4 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to the Angus Alive Signal Tower project given the better fit with the aims of that fund.
 - £200,000, as a match fund, from Intervention S1 of the UK Shared Prosperity funding towards the Arbroath Community Centre (in addition to the £243,000 from PBIF)
- 4.10 It is also recommended that members delegate authority to the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth following consultation with Convenor of Communities Committee, to approve any necessary emergency changes or projects should monies become available due to approved projects being unable to proceed, or due to project underspends or decommitments, due to further capital becoming available to Local Authorities from the Scottish Government 2021/22 Place-Based Investment Programme.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Whilst there are no direct financial implications as all proposals are contained within the allocated funding streams, there are indirect financial implications of officer time to support the preparation and/or delivery of projects and administration of the fund.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An equalities impact assessment has been undertaken and is attached as Appendix 1.

NOTE: The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- The Scottish Government Grant Award Letter

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EMAIL DETAILS: MichieA@angus.gov.uk

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Equality Impact Assessment
Appendix 2 – List of PBIP scored projects
Appendix 3 – Project summary sheets with officer recommendations.



Appendix 1

Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form

Step 1

Name of Proposal (includes e. g. budget savings, committee reports, strategies, policies, procedures, service reviews, functions): **Place-Based Investment Programme (PBIP)**

Step 2

Is this only a **screening** Equality Impact Assessment

No

(A) If Yes, please choose from the following options **all** reasons why a full EIA/FSD is not required:

(i) It does not impact on people

No

(ii) It is a percentage increase in fees which has no differential impact on protected characteristics

No

(iii) It is for information only

No

(iv) It is reflective e.g. of budget spend over a financial year

No

(v) It is technical

No

If you have answered yes to any of points above, please go to **Step 16**, and sign off the Assessment.

(B) If you have answered No to the above, please indicate the following:

Is this a full Equality Impact Assessment

Yes

Is this a Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment

No

If you have answered Yes to either or both of the above, continue with Step 3.

If your proposal is a **strategy** please ensure you complete Step 13 which is the Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment.

Step 3

(i)Lead Directorate/Service: Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth

(ii)Are there any **relevant** statutory requirements affecting this proposal? If so, please describe.

No

(iii)What is the aim of the proposal? Please give full details.

To seek approval for the distribution of the Place Based Investment Fund

(iv)Is it a new proposal? **Yes** Please indicate OR

Is it a review of e.g. an existing budget saving, report, strategy, policy, service review, procedure or function? No Please indicate

Step 4: Which people does your proposal involve or have consequences for?

Please indicate all which apply:

Employees **No**

Job Applicants **No**

Service users **No**

Members of the public **Yes**

Step 5: List the evidence/data/research that has been used in this assessment (links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance). This could include:

Internal data (e.g. customer satisfaction surveys; equality monitoring data; customer complaints).
N/A

Internal consultation (e.g. with staff, trade unions and any other services affected).

A full Expression of Interest engagement procedure was adopted with all front-facing services.

External data (e.g. Census, equality reports, equality evidence finder, performance reports, research, available statistics)

N/A

External consultation (e.g. partner organisations, national organisations, community groups, other councils).

A full 'Expression of Interest' engagement procedure was adopted with community groups and third sector organisations, this was widely circulated through Elected Members, on all Angus

Council Communications platforms, and sent to all groups and organisations that have been officers in discussions with officers.

Other (general information as appropriate).

Step 6: Evidence Gaps.

Are there any gaps in the equality information you currently hold? **No**

If yes, please state what they are, and what measures you will take to obtain the evidence you need.

Step 7: Are there potential differential impacts on protected characteristic groups? Please complete for each group, including details of the potential impact on those affected. Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each group. Please state the reason(s) why.
See Table below:

[illegible]

Step 8: Consultation with any of the groups potentially affected

If you have consulted with any group potentially affected, please give details of how this was done and what the results were.

Each applicant has included detailed information in their PBIP application.

If you have not consulted with any group potentially affected, how have you ensured that you can make an informed decision about mitigating action of any negative impact (Step 9)?

Step 9: What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce potentially negative impacts?

No Negative impacts have been identified.

Step 10: If a potentially negative impact has been identified, please state below the justification.

No negative impacts have been identified

Step 11: In what way does this proposal contribute to any or all of the public sector equality duty to: eliminate unlawful discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between people of different protected characteristics?

Elements of the PBIP has been developed to include the reduction of inequality, all projects are inclusive and many involve or will benefit the wider community including all Protected Characteristic Groups.

Step 12: Is there any action which could be taken to advance equalities in relation to this proposal?

In future years we could consider adding an additional criteria to the fund.

Step 13: FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

This step is only applicable to **strategies** which are key, high level decisions. If your proposal is **not** a strategy, please leave this Step blank, and go to Step 14.

Links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance.

Step 13(A) What evidence do you have about any socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome in relation to this strategic issue?

Step 13(B) Please state if there are any gaps in socio-economic evidence for this strategy and how you will take measures to gather the evidence you need.

Step 13(C) Are there any potential impacts this strategy may have specifically on the undernoted groupings? Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from Covid-19.

Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each grouping.

Low and/or No Wealth (e.g. those with enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future).

Impact

Material Deprivation (i.e. those unable to access basic goods and services e.g. repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies).

Impact

Area Deprivation (i.e. where people live (e.g. rural areas), or where they work (e.g. accessibility of transport)).

Impact

Socio-economic Background i.e. social class including parents' education, people's employment and income.

Impact

Other – please indicate

Step 13(D) Please state below if there are measures which could be taken to reduce socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome.

Step 14: What arrangements will be put in place to monitor and review the Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment?

A condition will be added to the Grant award letter

Step 15: Where will this Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment be published?

Within the Communities portal on Angus Council's website.

Step 16: Sign off and Authorisation. Please state name, post, and date for each:

Prepared by: Audrey Michie, Service Leader, Vibrant Communities, 30/08/2023

Reviewed by: Jill Paterson, Service Leader, Planning and Sustainable Growth, 30/08/2023

Approved by: Alison Smith, Director Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth, 04/09/2023

NB. There are several worked examples of separate EIA and FSD Assessments in the Guidance which may be of use to you.

Appendix 2

Group Name	Project Name	Details	Area	Project Assessment Total (max 240)	PBIP Amount Requested £	Recommended for Approval £	Officer/IV Panel Decision
Kirrie Connections	Kirrie Connections New Community Hall	New Purpose Built Building	Kirriemuir	166	300,000	300,000	Recommend approval
Union Park Community Sports Hub	Union Park Community Sports Hub	New Bespoke Sports Hub	Montrose	163	50,000	50,000	Recommend approval
ANGUSAlive	Signal Space Community Garden and Courtyard Café	Development of Garden & Courtyard Café	Arbroath	151	235,000		Recommend approval of £143,540 but from the UKSPF
Carnoustie & Monifieth Men's Shed	Preservation of Iconic Community Building in Carnoustie : Panmure Centre	Stage 1 Roof Repairs to Panmure Centre	Carnoustie	150	55,834	27,000	Recommend approval in part due to potential other sources of funding for the project
Angus Council	Replacement Roof Coverings at Arbroath Community Centre	Replacement Roof Coverings at Arbroath Community Centre	Arbroath	144	443,000	243,000	Recommend approval of £243,000 form PBIF and £200,000 from UKSPF
APPROVAL TOTALS					1,083,834	763,540	
Caledonian Railway Brechin Ltd	Brechin Station Footbridge and Access Improvement		Brechin	174	108,500	0	Recommend refusal due to other potential sources of funding
Brechin City Hall Users Group (BCHug)	Brechin City Hall - Let there be Sunshine	Installation of Solar Panels	Brechin	160	60,250	0	Recommend refusal due to other potential sources of funding
Brechin Community Football Trust	The Glebe		Brechin	152	51,944	0	Recommend refusal due to other potential sources of funding
The Montrose Playhouse	The Playhouse Community Kitchen		Montrose	134	51,000	0	Recommend refusal due to other potential sources of funding
Dundee & Angus College	Animals, Land and Environment – Centre of Excellence	Upgrading of Current Facilities	Arbroath	101	50,000	0	Recommend refusal

ANGUSAlive	Arbroath High Street Regeneration Project		Arbroath	94	80,000	0	Recommend refusal
Angus Council	Broomfield Road, Montrose		Montrose	65	108,000	0	Recommend refusal
Angus Council	Arbroath - A Place for Everyone		Arbroath	48	195,000	0	Recommend refusal

Approve		Approve with conditions	X	Decline		Place on Reserve list	
Reason for Recommendation: Approve in full with the condition that the funding package is secured. This project will support the community of Kirriemuir with additional required community space and will benefit will deliver extended key dementia support for the residents of Angus. It meets the overall fund criteria of: Inclusive Growth and Local Resilience. The award will be conditional and subject to the organisation securing the full funding package.							

Approve		Approve with conditions	x	Decline		Place on Reserve list	
Reason for Recommendation:							
<p>It is recommended that this project is funded to a lesser amount of £143,540 from Intervention S4 of the UKSPF given the deliverability of the project and contribution to design and management of the built environment with no award from PBIF.</p>							

Project Name:	Preservation of Iconic Community Building in Carnoustie : Panmure Centre
Project Applicant:	Carnoustie & Monifieth Mens Shed
Location:	Carnoustie
Funding Request (£)	£55,834 (recommended award £27,000)

Brief Project Description:

This application is for funds to repair and upgrade the historic Panmure Centre in Carnoustie. This is the first stage in the redevelopment of the building. The application also looks for funding for solar panels.

Programme Criteria	Max. Score Per Assessor	Max. Score Combined	Total Officer Panel Score
Impact (leading to transformational change)	15	60	37
Deliverability within timescales (31 March 2024)	15	60	51
Sustainability of project	10	40	28
Place-based evidence of need	10	40	18
Leverage	5	20	1
Carbon Reduction (Towards Net Zero)	5	20	15
Total	60	240	150

1. General Comments

This first stage of making the building wind and watertight will support the reduction of soaring energy costs for the group. Further support is required with the group to look at the redevelopment of the building.

2. Place-based Rationale for support

This is a phase of a larger potential project for the Panmure Centre. There are aspirations to look at the development of the building, however in the first instance the key is to keep bills low to ensure the building is suitable for a mix of groups to use the property.

3. Deliverability/Sustainability of project

The project is ready to deliver and can be started if successful in October. With a five-week turnaround the building will be wind and watertight for winter.

4. Impact/Net Zero target

The element of putting on solar panels supports net zero targets

5. Recommendation to Angus Council Communities Committee:

Approve	X	Approve with conditions		Decline		Place on Reserve list	
Reason for Recommendation: The solar panel element of the project has the potential to fit another fund. Therefore, the recommendation is that this project is part funded to ensure the building is wind and waterproof.							

Brief Project Description: This application is to fund the replacement of the Arbroath Community Centre roof and look to lower the roof to make it more energy efficient. This is a proactive measure to ensure, should a community group take over the building, that the building is wind and water-tight.

A community feasibility study is being carried out to determine uses for the property and interest from a range of community groups to actively use the facility. Should the building end on the open market, the upgrade to the roof will ensure the building is in a sellable state. The aim of this proactive measure is to ensure that we can find an end-use for the property and that it does not end up vacant and derelict, causing issues in years to come.

Although there are other community facilities in Arbroath the gap seems to be around larger indoor sports and activities. The building has a significant level of water ingress, and a new roof will be required. Fixing this element will potentially lead to the building being occupied which will provide a hub of activity bringing footfall into the area and due to the natural use of the building will most likely lead to supporting health and wellbeing and will hopefully be a proactive measure in ensuring we are not left with a vacant and derelict property.

The project requires a drone survey to assess the full damage. Once results are back the project can be delivered.

When fixing the roof, an opportunity would be taken to insulate the roof making the building more energy efficient and reducing fuel costs for any group utilising the building, helping meet net zero targets.

Approve	X	Approve with conditions		Decline		Place on Reserve list	
Reason for Recommendation: It is recommended that £243,000 be funded from the Place Based Investment fund and an award of £200,000 from Intervention S1 of the UKSPF given the deliverability of the project and contribution to regeneration.							

Project Name:	Brechin City Hall - Let there be Sunshine
Project Applicant:	Brechin City Hall Users Group (BCHug)
Location:	Brechin
Funding Request (£)	60,250

Brief Project Description: This project will see the Installation of solar panels on the south-facing roofs of both halls. These roofs are not visible from the street and therefore have no impact on the stature of this ancient, listed building. Future hire and usage costs would be contained, benefitting all hall users be they local groups or individuals as the charges faced would be sustained at an affordable level.

Programme Criteria	Max. Score Per Assessor	Max. Score Combined	Total Officer Panel Score
Impact (leading to transformational change)	15	60	31
Deliverability within timescales (31 March 2024)	10	60	38
Sustainability of project	15	40	35
Place-based evidence of need	10	40	29
Leverage	5	20	8
Carbon Reduction (Towards Net Zero)	5	20	19
Total	60	240	160

1. General Comments: This project will support the reduction of energy bills, However, there are potentially better funding sources for this fund.

2. Place-based Rationale for support:

3. Deliverability/Sustainability of project

4. Impact/Net Zero Targets

This 'green' project will support the net zero targets

5. Recommendation to Angus Council Communities Committee:

Approve		Approve with conditions		Decline	X	Place on Reserve list	
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Reason for Recommendation: Whilst this project scored fairly high for the PBIB alternative sources of funding are likely to provide a more suitable fit for this type of project.

Brief Project Description: To support the modernisation and creation of innovative learning spaces to form a centre of excellence for land-based activities relating to Animals, Land and Environment. This project will see a complete refurbishment and refit of existing space within the Construction Skills Workshops to create a realistic veterinary practice work environment, to include a simulated veterinary theatre and reception.

Programme Criteria	Max. Score Per Assessor	Max. Score Combined	Total Officer Panel Score
Impact (leading to transformational change)	15	60	19
Deliverability within timescales (31 March 2022)	10	60	52
Sustainability of project	15	40	16
Place-based evidence of need	10	40	9
Leverage	5	20	1
Carbon Reduction (Towards Net Zero)	5	20	4
Total	60	240	101

This project scored low against most criteria.

Although increasing the opportunity for training within the local area is a benefit, this project does not meet the transformational nature of the fund.

The project is deliverable within the timescales of the fund

There is no evidence of carbon reduction provided in the application

Approve		Approve with conditions		Decline	X	Place on Reserve list	
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Reason for Recommendation: This project is not recommended for funding due to a poor fit with criteria.

